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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/889,546

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Mitsugu Yoshihiro

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FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

KAPADIA, VARSHA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2651

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/889,546

Applicant(s)

YOSHIHIRO, MITSUGU

Examiner

Varsha A Kapadia

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on April 2, 2004.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-3 and 5- 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura et al in view of Yao et al (5, 802, 243), Ikushima et al (5,311,375) and further in view of Oguro (5,907,656).

With regards to claims 1, 5-6 and 8, Arimura et al in view of Yao et al and Ikushima et al. discloses the invention as described in the office action mailed on January 14, 2004. Arimura et al in view of Yao et al and Ikushima et al. fails to further disclose that the video tape is housed within a cassette that includes a non-contact type buffer memory for storing a list of contents of the video tape.

However, the video tape housed within a cassette that includes a non-contact type buffer memory for storing a list of contents of the video tape is well known and widely used in the art. Oguro for example discloses such in figs.8, 23 disclosure thereof and col.4 line 50 to col.5 line 10; wherein Oguro also discloses that the data from the memory is recorded/reproduced in accordance with the data operation of the tape.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the recording/reproducing apparatus disclosed by Arimura et al in view of Yao et al. and Ikushima et al with the above teachings from Oguro in order to provide a recording/reproducing device having video tape housed within a cassette that includes a buffer memory for storing a list of contents of the video tape to provide a capability of quickly accessing specific data location without effecting the data density.

With regards to claims 2-3 and 7, Arimura et al further discloses that the driving control means is controlled in such a manner that, when the data quantity stored in the buffer memory is larger than the predetermined value, the video tape running speed is lowered and vice versa. (see figs. 4A and 4B and col.5 line 50 to col.6 line 64; wherein Arimura et al also discloses the capability of temporarily suspending the running of the tape and re-starting the motion of the tape again when the data in the buffer becomes higher than the set value).

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimura et al in view of Yao et al, Ikushima et al, Oguro and in further in view of Beavers et al (6,307,701).

With regards to claim 4, Arimura et al in view of Yao et al, Ikushima et al, Oguro discloses the invention as described above in this office action. Arimura et al in view of Yao et al, Ikushima et al, Oguro fails to further clarify that driving control means controls the driving means so that the video tape is returned by a fixed distance in the opposite direction to be ready for restarting the next recording after the running of the video tape temporarily brought to a stop.

Beavers et al however, disclose such a capability (see col.2 lines10-15).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the recording/reproducing apparatus disclosed by Arimura et al in view of Yao et al, Ikushima et al and Oguro with the above teachings from Beavers et al in order to provide a capability to return the video tape by a fixed distance, in an opposite direction to be ready to restart after it has brought to temporary stop to allow enough space to accelerate to the forward operating speed, as taught by Beavers at al.

Prior Art Cited

Reference to Fukuzono et al (6,182,191) cited as of interest.

Reference to Nakajima et al (6,134,067) cited as of interest.

Reference to Sezan et al (5,956,458) cited as of interest.

Reference to Takayama (5,943,468) cited as of interest.

Response to Remarks

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Varsha A Kapadia whose telephone number is (703) 305-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Wed from 6:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (703) 308-4825. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VK



DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600